

Health Alert Network Message
April 28, 2008

All Arizona Health Care Providers Should Have Documentation of Immunity to Measles

Pima County is experiencing an ongoing measles outbreak. To date, there have been 14 confirmed cases of measles in Arizona since February 2008.

The Arizona Department of Health Services recommends that all health care providers in Arizona have documented evidence of immunity to measles as recommended in the 1998 ACIP recommendations by having documentation of at least one of the following:

- 2 doses of measles-mumps-rubella vaccine (MMR)
- For individuals born before 1957, at least one dose of measles containing vaccine
- Serologic evidence of immunity to measles
- A physician diagnosis of measles

[See Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Measles, Mumps, and Rubella — Vaccine Use and Strategies for Elimination of Measles, Rubella, and Congenital Rubella Syndrome and Control of Mumps: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). MMWR 1998; 47 (No. RR-8): 1-58 at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr4708.pdf>].

A health care worker is defined as any person (i.e., medical or non-medical, paid or volunteer, full- or part-time, student or nonstudent, with or without patient-care responsibilities) who works at a facility that provides health care to patients (i.e., inpatient and outpatient, private and public). This outbreak highlights the risk of measles importation into any community and the burden of measles cases on health care facilities. **ADHS encourages all health care providers and all health care facilities statewide to evaluate the immune status of health care workers for measles and to have susceptible individuals vaccinated.**

Measles is highly contagious, so there is a risk of measles spreading to other counties. Therefore, all clinicians need to 1) Be aware of how to identify measles, 2) Put suspected measles cases in airborne (negative pressure) isolation immediately, 3) Contact their county or tribal health department immediately. Your local health department will help you obtain rapid measles testing by serology and by nasopharyngeal and urine viral cultures.

Measles begins with fever, malaise, and a prodrome of conjunctivitis, coryza, and cough. After 2-4 days, a red maculopapular rash appears first on the face and upper body, and then becomes generalized. Immunocompromised patients may not exhibit rash.

Since we have an ongoing measles outbreak, **any febrile patient with a generalized rash should be handled as a suspect measles case.**

Also, **any febrile illness with conjunctivitis, cough, and coryza should be handled as a suspect measles case.**

Please see the ADHS measles website for measles information for clinicians and families (http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/oids/epi/disease/measles/measles_g.htm). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention measles website can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/measles/default.htm>. For further questions, please contact your local health department or the Office of Infectious Disease Services at (602) 364-3676.